

REMARKS

Applicants have amended Claim 1 by removing the second period at the end of the claim to overcome the formal objection raised in the Office Action.

With respect to the rejection of Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, the Examiner stated that it is not clear what structure facilitated movement of an articulating boom which includes a drill which reciprocated along a linear path of a first member, where the pair of links are pivotally connected. In response, applicants submit that the movement along a linear path is described in the specification at page 10, lines 3-13 and at Figures 4, 5, 7A-C and 8A-D.

More particularly, the deployment of the drill, on the power head assembly 71 comprising a drifter 91, is along a boom body 70 including drive engagement wall 72. The longitudinal axis of the boom body 70 is aligned with the aperture 73 on engagement portion 72. As shown in both sets of Figures 7A-C, depicting a short throw for drilling and bolting, and Figures 8A-C, depicting a long throw for drilling blast holes, the movement of the drifter 91, as part of the power head assembly 71, is along a linear path. The referenced portions of the specification and drawings demonstrate that the two-link arm 92 having an intermediate elbow 93 provides for movement along the linear path.

Applicants submit that the claimed subject matter is sufficiently described in the specification, such that it is enabling to one skilled in the art. Removal of the rejection under § 112, first paragraph is therefore respectfully requested.

Turning to the rejection of Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, the Examiner stated that the “first kinked member” recited in Claim 1 is not disclosed in the specification. In response, applicants submit that the “first kinked member” recited in Claim 1 is the tool assembly 66 shown in Figures 5 and 6G and described at page 9, lines 5-7. As shown and described, the tool assembly 66 includes a two link tool arm 92 with an intermediate elbow 93 forming the kinked member. To clarify the element, applicants have amended the specification at page 9, lines 5-7 to particularly identify the tool assembly 66 being in the form of a kinked member.

In view of the above, applicants urge that the element recited as the "first kinked member" is properly disclosed in the application. Removal of the rejection under § 112, second paragraph is therefore respectfully requested.

Finally, applicants submit herewith a certified copy of the priority document, Australian Patent Application No. PR1894 filed on December 5, 2000, for entry in this application.

Applicants trust that the present application is now in proper form for allowance. Favorable consideration and early allowance of Claims 1-4 of the present application is respectfully requested and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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